



CITY OF TUCSON



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NEWS RELEASE

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AGGRAVATED ASSAULT ON A POLICE OFFICER

Male assaults three Tucson Police Department officers this morning in two separate incidents.

On August 17, 2015, around 12:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of nude male walking around outside of a convenience store in the 5500 block of East Golf Links Road. Officers arrived on scene and located the male who was now wearing shorts. The clerk asked for the male to be trespassed from the property. The male was advised by officers that the convenience store did not want him on the property and he left without incident.

Approximately one hour after the initial incident an officer riding with his field training officer located the same male back at the convenience store. The officers exited their marked patrol vehicle to make contact with the male. A fight ensued immediately. During the course of the fight, the male punched one officer in the face. The male was also able to remove the badge from one of the officer's shirt and attempted to use the pin on the back side to strike the officer in face. Additional officers responded to the scene and were required to finally detain the male in handcuffs. Two of the officers and the male suffered minor injuries. The male was transported to Carondelet St. Joseph's Hospital and the officers did not seek treatment. The male was arrested for misdemeanor trespass and felony aggravated assault on the officers. The male has been identified as 28-year-old Daniel Nelson.

An officer unrelated to the initial investigation remained with Mr. Nelson at the hospital. Around 4:00 a.m. Mr. Nelson was being transitioned between beds for a medical procedure that required the removal of his handcuffs. Once the handcuffs were removed, he immediately attacked the officer by punching him in the face. Two hospital employees that were present at the time sought assistance from hospital security. Mr. Nelson was able to remove additional restraints and continued his attack on the officer. The officer attempted to utilize his Taser but Mr. Nelson grabbed onto it and a struggle for control of the Taser occurred. The Taser was deployed with no noticeable effect. The officer and Mr. Nelson both lost control of the Taser. Mr. Nelson then began choking the officer. As the officer was unable to breathe, he drew his duty weapon. Upon seeing the weapon drawn, Mr. Nelson let go of the officer's neck with one hand and grabbed the officer's gun with the other hand. A struggle took place over the weapon and during that time the gun was fired and the officer was struck in the hand with one round. The officer continued the fight with Mr. Nelson and radioed for emergency assistance. Hospital security responded along with additional officers and Mr. Nelson was placed back into custody.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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The officer sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was treated and released. Mr. Nelson also sustained non-life-threatening injuries and is still receiving treatment.

Detectives from the Violent Crimes Section and the Office of Internal Affairs responded to continue the investigation. The Violent Crimes Section will conduct the criminal investigation. As a duty weapon was discharged during the course of this incident, the Office of Internal Affairs will conduct a separate and parallel administrative investigation to examine the actions of department personnel in response to this incident.

The investigation is ongoing and additional charges are pending Mr. Nelson's release from the hospital. A previous booking photograph is provided below. Further information will be released as it becomes available.



Daniel Nelson

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